

The Office Action stated the present patent application is in condition for allowance except for two formal matters: (a) the surrender of the original patent and (b) the formal drawings. The Applicants herein submit the original U.S. Patent No. 5,857,180, which accompanies this paper, to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Consequently, the Applicants respectfully submit that their obligations under 37 § CFR 1.178 have been fulfilled by the surrender of the original patent.

Regarding the formal drawings, the Office Action (a) indicated that the drawings filed on October 21, 2002 and November 27, 2002 were acceptable by the Examiner, and (b) contained no Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review. The drawings submitted on October 21, 2002 were formal drawings, and the drawings submitted November 27, 2002 corrected typographical matter inadvertently introduced to formal Figures 1-3, 16, 22, 27, and 31. The Examiner indicated that the Applicants needed to identify in this paper that the drawings submitted on October 21, 2002 and November 27, 2002 are formal drawings. Applicants declare that the drawings filed on October 21, 2002 and November 27, 2002 are formal drawings. Consequently, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action's objections to the formal drawings are addressed.

### CONCLUSION

The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

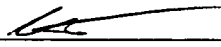
The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: 3/18/03

  
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#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

on March 18, 2003

by 